

GLOBAL CLIMATE HIGHLIGHTS

MAJOR CLIMATIC EVENTS AND ANOMALIES AS OF NOVEMBER 16, 1991

1. North America:

TEMPERATURES MODERATE LATE IN THE WEEK.

1 week, milder weather spread into the eastern States, replacing the chilly conditions that still engulfed the region. Despite the moderating temperatures, parts of the Southeast averaged more °C below normal [Ended after 4 weeks].

2. Appalachians and the Southeastern United States:

DRY AND WET WEATHER REDUCES THREAT OF WILDFIRES.

A storm early in the week brought rain to the central and southern Appalachians and Piedmont, with sleet and freezing rain glazing the higher elevations. Moderate precipitation (15–50 mm) and lower temperatures helped to diminish wildfires that had plagued the Appalachians for the last several weeks. Little or no rain, however, fell on the remainder of the mid-Atlantic (see Figure 1). Moisture deficits of 0 mm have accumulated since the end of October at most locations [8 weeks].

3. Central and Southeastern Europe:

SUBSTANTIAL TEMPERATURES END COLD SPELL.

What warmer air settled over central and eastern Europe, bringing an end to the cold spell that had persisted in the region [Ended after 8 weeks].

4. Central India and Sri Lanka:

TOPICAL CYCLONE UNLEASHES HEAVY RAIN.

At least 100 people were killed and more than 20,000 made homeless by a cyclone that lashed the coast of southern India on Friday. The storm, packing winds up to 100 km/hr and rainfall totals as high as 580 mm, crossed the coast near Pondicherry, causing severe damage to crops and property as several

rivers burst their banks, according to press reports. Above normal rains have drenched much of southern India and Sri Lanka during the last few weeks (see inside back cover), where as much as 3 times normal rainfall has fallen since late October [3 weeks].

5. Philippines:

TOPICAL STORMS CONTINUE TO BATTER ISLANDS.

Late in the week, Topical Storm Wilda roared through southern Luzon and northern Samar with heavy rain (up to 175 mm) and powerful wind gusts topping 100 km/hr. Wilda struck Manila on Sunday, according to press reports, and knocked out most of the city's electricity. Earlier in the week, Typhoon Seth weakened to a tropical storm before moving into northeastern Luzon. Wilda and Seth followed in the wake of Tropical Storm Thelma, the deadliest natural disaster to strike the Philippines since 1976 [2 weeks].

6. Central Indonesia:

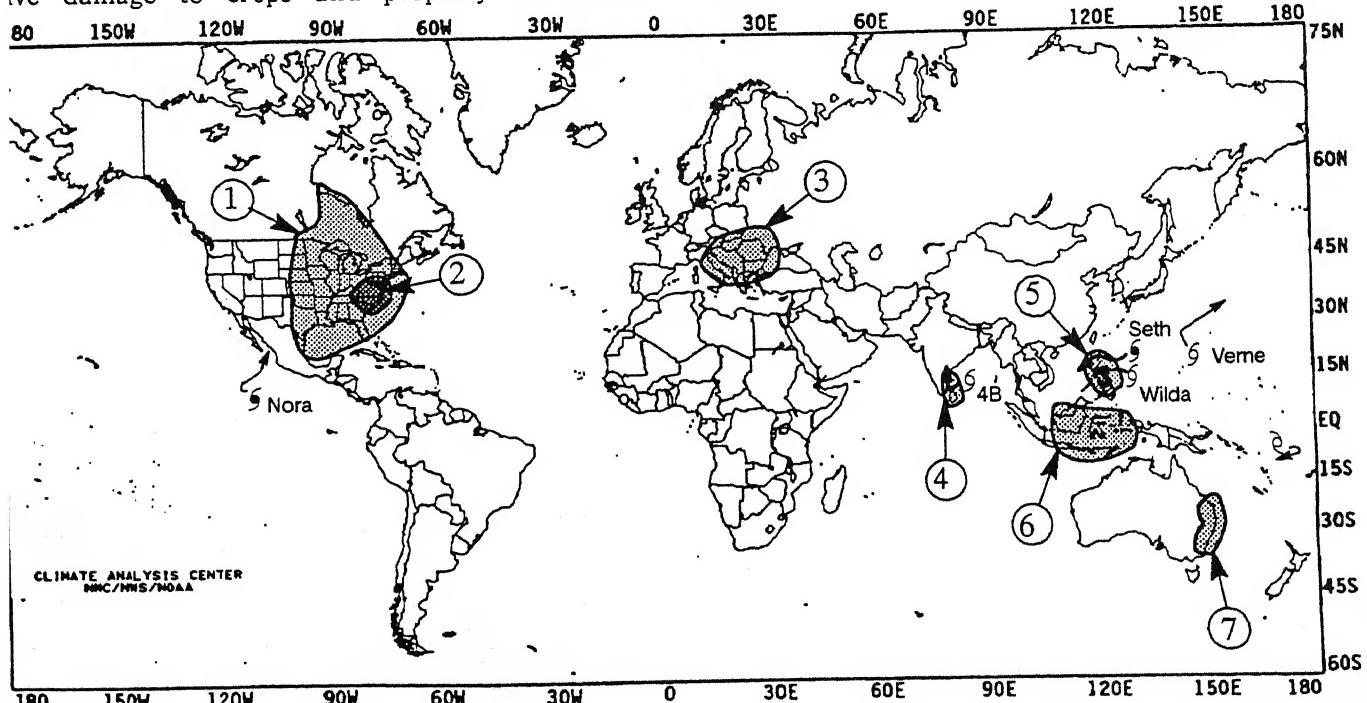
RAINS AGAIN PROVIDE ISOLATED RELIEF FROM DRYNESS.

Rainshowers (10 – 150 mm) were scattered across central Indonesia, easing dryness in parts of the nation. Many locations, however, still report six week moisture shortages of 50 – 250 mm [11 weeks].

7. Eastern Australia:

MODERATE RAINS SOAK NORTHERN AREAS, BUT DRYNESS PERSISTS FARTHER SOUTH.

The first significant rains since mid-June (10 – 50 mm) covered southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, providing relief from the prolonged dryness. Farther south, little or no rain fell on southern New South Wales, where moisture deficits of 50–100 mm have accumulated since early October [16 weeks].



EXPLANATION

EXT: Approximate duration of anomalies is in brackets. Precipitation amounts and temperature departures are this week's values.

AP: Approximate locations of major anomalies and episodic events are shown. See other maps in this Bulletin for current two week temperature anomalies, four week precipitation anomalies, long-term anomalies, and other details.

